

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 PA-02 USIA-15 INR-07 EA-10 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /056 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS IPERNICK:MDK

APPROVED BY S/PRS ROBERT FUNSETH

S/S - JPMOFFAT

----- 096564

P 192144Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 116444 TOSEC 010035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), XG,UR, SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 19, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS.

NO. 2.

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY ACTING SPOKESMAN FUNSETH'S RESPONSES  
AT MAY 19 PRESS BRIEFING.

1. NOTE TO THAILAND -- CHARGE MASTERS DELIVERED NOTE TO  
THAI FONMIN CHARTCHAI AT 9:45 A.M. LOCAL TODAY. NOTE  
EXPRESSED REGRET OVER RECENT INCIDENTS AND PROVIDED AN  
EXPLANATION OF THESE EVENTS. NOTE WAS OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED  
BY RTG. WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT RTG IS SATISFIED WITH  
THE NOTE.

2. MAYAGUEZ -- (A) REMAINS OF US MARINES-- DOD INFORMED US  
THAT REMAINS OF SOME MARINES MAY HAVE BEEN LEFT ON TANG  
ISLAND. WE ARE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT RETURN. FUNSETH  
CONFIRMED DOD STATEMENT THAT RED CROSS IS ONE  
CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH WE ARE ACTING, BUT AS NOT HELPFUL  
TO THIS EFFORT, DECLINED TO DISCUSS OTHER POSSIBLE  
CHANNELS.  
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(B) DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEIZURE OF POLISH VESSEL OFF  
CALIFORNIA AND MAYAGUEZ CASE -- ABSOLUTELY NO COMPARISON.

COAST GUARD SEIZED POLISH VESSEL FOR FISHING ILLEGALLY

IN US CONTIGUOUS FISHING ZONE (SEE ITEM 6 BELOW). ON OTHER HAND, MAYAGUEZ WAS A MERCHANT VESSEL IN NORMAL PASSAGE IN AN INTERNATIONAL SEA LANE.

(C) NOTICE TO MARINERS -- WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT IT TO BE LIFTED. WHEN FUNSETH CONFIRMED THAT NOTAM WAS OF ADVISORY NATURE AND PRESS SUGGESTED THAT OTHER AMERICAN VESSELS MIGHT SAIL THROUGH SAME AREA, FUDSETH STATED ONE SHOULD NOT "UNDERESTIMATE THE COMMON SENSE" OF AMERICAN SHIP CAPTAINS.

3. INDOCHINA -- (A) ALGERIA AND VIETNAMESE ASSETS IN US/ US RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY IN SAIGON/US INTERESTS IN SAIGON -- THESE AND QUESTIONS LIKE THESE ARE STILL UNDER STUDY.

(B) CONTACT WITH CAMBODIANS IN PEKING -- NOT AWARE THAT US HAS HAD CONTACT WITH CAMBODIANS IN PEKING SINCE LAST WEEK.

4. AMERICANS IN SAVANNAKHET -- NOT MUCH CHANGE SINCE WEEKEND. ARE STILL BEING DETAINED. WE ARE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH RLG WHICH ASSURES US A CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIAL WILL GO TO SAVANNAKHET TO DISCUSS THE RELEASE. HE DID NOT KNOW THE REASON FOR THE DELAY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL IN SAVANNAKHET.

5. IRANIAN PRESS REPORT ON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND INDEXING AGREEMENT -- (REPORT APPARENTLY ALLEGES THAT US AGREED TO SHAH'S INDEXING SCHEME AND ALSO PARTICIPATED IN "SECRET MEETING" IN TEHERAN WITH IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, EC AND FRANCE TO PLAN FOR AN ENERGY CONFERENCE.) FUNSETH SAID IF THERE WAS A "SECRET" MEETING IT "WAS SO 'SECRET'" THAT WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. HE ADDED HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY AGREEMENT ON INDEXING, STATING THE MOST RECENT COMMENT ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT WAS MADE BY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY IN KANSAS CITY SPEECH.

6. SEIZURE OF POLISH VESSEL -- POLISH VESSEL KALMAR WAS SIGHTED ILLEGALLY FISHING 3 A.M. LOCAL SATURDAY ABOUT 10 MILES OFF CALIFORNIA COAST. COAST GUARD SEIZED VESSEL AND TOOK IT TO SAN FRANCISCO. POLISH EMBASSY AND POLISH MARITIME REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK WERE INFORMED. CIVIL CHARGES AGAINST THE VESSEL AND CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THE MASTER WILL BE FILED TODAY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

7. NORTH KOREA -- FUNSETH TERMED AS "NONSENSE" REPORTED NORTH KOREAN CHARGE THAT U.S. PLANNING NUCLEAR WARFARE.

8. ILLNESS OF SATO -- FUNSETH OPENED BRIEFING WITH

STATEMENT: "WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE NEWS THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER EISAKU SATO HAS SUFFERED A STROKE. WE ARE DEEPLY DISTRESSED BY THE NEWS OF THE SUDDEN ILLNESS OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER EISAKU SATO, A STATESMAN WHO HAS LONG HAD CLOSE FRIENDLY TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE PROFOUNDLY HOPE THAT HE WILL RECOVER SPEEDILY."

INGERSOLL

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